

167931



DMLIGH@solutia.com on 03/02/2000 02:16:05 PM

To: MICHAEL MCATEER

Subject: Sauget Site I Trenching - Cerro Access

Mike,

You have asked Solutia to consider the following to accommodate Cerro's reluctance to grant access to Site I based on Cerro's concern for the safety of its employees during the trenching into Site I:

Complete one center trench and 4 boundary trenches on site I; using multiple crews (minimum of 3 x normal); on a Sunday; and within a rigidly defined 7.5 hour window (8:15 AM to 3:45 PM).

The motivation for these extraordinary measures is to allow Cerro to feel secure about the safety of their workers. Does Cerro know something about Site I that they are not sharing with the rest of us?

Let's look at the numbers and think about the probabilities. This plan would require a minimum of 3 level B excavators with 3 separate crews and auxiliary personnel (Health & Safety; contractor supervisor; EPA oversight, dump truck & operator with sand). That is a total of 20 +/- people - in level B - forced to be at ground zero (while Cerro is out of town) working toward a tight timeline. There will be 3 trenches open at any given time.

Assume there is an incident - which apparently Cerro feels is a relatively high probability. How do I quickly communicate to these 20 +/- people - at ground zero - each occupied with their own separate work - that they should evacuate the area? What do I tell the community when they learn that the Agencies felt that the work was sufficiently dangerous that they accommodated evacuation of the Cerro plant - but took no special precautions to protect the safety of the surrounding community. In fact, it is a logical argument that this plan would increase the risks of exposure to the community by increasing the number of trenches open at any given time and by increasing the probability of a poorly managed incident.

What happens if in the highly likely event - in spite of our best efforts - the work is not finished at 3:45 PM Sunday? What do we do if we locate drums which our procedure calls for overpacking and removing. This could not be accommodated within the allotted window. Does Solutia have to do this all over again at some future date convenient to Cerro?

Solutia's position is that it cannot agree to incur the significant additional risks to our contractor and supervisory personnel which this plan would create. We also cannot agree to participate in a plan which does not optimally and equally protect all members of the community from the potential for exposure.

Mike Light

Sat. Mar. 11 + 12
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